

Orange County's congressional lawmakers want to bring home nearly \$400 million in federal money for local projects ranging from completion of the Santa Ana flood control effort to road projects and law enforcement programs.

This is the second year members of Congress have been required to put their names on "earmarks," chunks of money for specific projects members are attach to the spending bills that fund all federal programs.

Lawmakers aren't required to make their requests public before the Appropriations Committee decides which ones it will approve. But some OC delegation members – though not all of them – are making their lists public so that their constituents will know what causes they're working to fund.

Rep. Ken Calvert, R-Corona, who is asking for more than \$311 million, was by far the biggest earmarker of those who shared their requests while Rep. John Campbell, R-Irvine, did not ask for a penny. Campbell has been fighting against earmarks and has attempted unsuccessfully each year since he's been in Congress to strip them out of the spending bills.

The two lawmakers who refused to make their earmarks public were Reps. Loretta Sanchez, D-Garden Grove, and Gary Miller, R-Diamond Bar.

Both members said they would wait to release their earmarks until they had a list of approved requests.

Sanchez's press secretary, Paula Negrete, said the congresswoman didn't want to get hopes up when "only a fraction of the requests" actually receive funding. Miller's press secretary, Scott Toussaint, said that the congressman prefers to follow the rules, which only require disclosure of approved projects.

Lawmakers usually just get a fraction what they ask for. Calvert may have an edge among delegation members because he sits on the Appropriations Committee and is a member of the Energy and Water subcommittee which has jurisdiction over many of his requests.

Both Calvert and Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Huntington Beach, have asked for projects in counties other than Orange. Most of Calvert's district is in Riverside County so the majority of his earmarks are for projects there. Rohrabacher represents part of Long Beach so he has asked for money for improvements there.

The requests were due to the Appropriations panel by the end of March. House members should hear which requests have been approved before the August recess.